



# Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

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**GENEALOGY**  
**HERALDRY**  
**VEXILLOLOGY**  
**SOCIAL HISTORY**  
**Heritage Matters**  
**Book Reviews**  
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## Genetic Genealogy & Academic Historians

Genetic genealogy or genealogy based on DNA analysis is a relatively new phenomenon in the world of popular genealogical research. Indeed, much has been written about the potential of 'genetic genealogy' to unlock the seemingly intractable problems caused by deficiencies or gaps in the archival records. A number of companies in Ireland are offering DNA Profiling as a genealogical service providing clients with an analysis of their DNA markers which points to ancient genetic origins based on similarities with many hundreds of thousands of DNA samples collected from around the globe. This type of DNA analysis indicates geographic locations of origin, however, some have taken such to mean origins amongst historic population groups e.g. Celts, Vikings, Picts or Anglo-Saxons. The scientific data may indicate, quite conclusively, that the genetic origins of a client are similar to those of others tested with connections to particular regions. However, the nomenclature used to describe persons from these regions in pre-historic or early medieval times is frequently



disputed as mere 'general speculation' by academic historians and archaeologists. Some popular DNA studies erroneously utilise the meaning of Irish placenames to substantiate findings. In Ireland studies have been conducted into questions of whether similar or identical surnames have a common genetic origin or several genetic origins. In a number of cases the results have confirmed the genealogical 'founding narratives' as presented by the annals. However, a clear distinction must be drawn between 'popular' and 'academic' genetic genealogy. Academic genetic

genealogy concentrates on specific population groups originating in particular areas. Such studies seek to resolve various questions as to origin, movement, distribution, immigration, intermarriage and, in some cases, to explore health issues or genetic characteristics. Participants in such studies are required to meet definitive and verifiable criteria, including the provision of a verifiable genealogical chart. The GSI launched such an academic genetic genealogy project in 2011 in conjunction with Dr. Gianpiero Cavalleri of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland as Scientific Director, Séamus O'Reilly, FGSI, as Genealogical Director and Dr. Darren McGettigan, a specialist in early and medieval Irish history, as the project's Historical Director (see page 3). Although, this Society has taken the lead by involving academic historians in its DNA projects, this multidisciplinary approach is essential for the reputation of genetic genealogy. Academic historians and archaeologists must proactively engage in the unfolding debate on genetic genealogy to ensure historical accuracy.

## The Morpeth Roll—Competition Time!

'The Morpeth Roll: Ireland Identified' exhibition will be on display in the State Apartments, Dublin Castle until 4th April and is viewed as part of the admission to the State Apartments. The Morpeth Roll is a testimonial containing circa 160,000 signatures that Lord Morpeth received on stepping down as Chief Secretary in 1841. Last year Ireland's premier academic publisher, Four Courts Press, published a wonderfully illustrated book on the Morpeth

Roll edited by Christopher Ridgeway. This excellent work 'The Morpeth Roll—Ireland Identified in 1841' was reviewed in the June 2013 issue of 'Gazette' which is available on the Society's website. Four Courts Press kindly presented the Society with ten copies of the book as prizes for a readers' competition to coincide with the exhibition in Dublin Castle. For a chance to win a copy of this excellent publication correctly answer the following questions. Please send your answers by e-mail with your name and address to [Gazette@familyhistory.ie](mailto:Gazette@familyhistory.ie)

by 17.00hrs on March 31st 2014. (1) What structure opened in 1859 and now considered the ideal location for the proposed **National Diaspora Centre** is associated with this man? (2) On what page in the **2014 Four Courts Press Catalogue** (which is available to download or to read on [www.fourcourtspress.ie](http://www.fourcourtspress.ie)) does this book feature? All correct answers, if more than ten, will be placed into a draw with the first ten drawn receiving copies of the book. The exhibition is also well worth a visit. Good luck!!

# Annual Report of the Board of Directors

The following is the Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the Genealogical Society of Ireland Limited adopted by the Board at its meeting of March 6<sup>th</sup> 2014 under **Res: 14/03/1083**. As usual the Annual Report covers the period from AGM to AGM, however, the Annual Financial Report is for the period ending December 31, 2013.

The Board of the Society met twelve times during the year to deal with the day-to-day business of the Society. In addition to attending these meetings each of the directors undertook duties associated with their various portfolios including organising eleven Morning Open Meetings and twelve Evening Open Meetings, the latter with guest speakers arranged by the Director of the GSI Lecture Programme. The Board received and accepted one resignation during the year with the duties concerned being reallocated amongst the members of the Board. In addition to the Annual Journal for 2013 (the 2014 issue will be out in April 2014) the Society published twelve issues of its newsletter 'Ireland's Genealogical Gazette' and its readership figures continued to be very strong throughout the year especially on-line where it was available in pdf format. The newsletter has been central to all the Society's legislative campaigns. The Society's *Statistics (Heritage Amendment) Bill, 2010* which was sponsored by Senator Labhrás Ó Murchú was debated at Second Stage in Seanad Éireann in October and an almost identical bill, likewise drafted by the Society, was introduced by Seán Ó Fearghaill, TD, in Dáil Éireann, both aimed at securing the early release of the 1926 Census. A delegation from the Society appeared before an Oireachtas Joint Committee exploring the topic

'Developing a Plan to Capture the Full Value of our Genealogical Heritage' in December 2013. The Society's Archives and Research Centre – *An Daonchartlann* - located at the Carlisle Pier, Dún Laoghaire, was extremely busy throughout the year providing access to the Society's collections and assisting visitors with family history research queries. The facility was open on Wednesdays from 10.30hrs to 16.30hrs with the exception of the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month when it opened at 13.00hrs and each Saturday from 14.00hrs to 17.30hrs. The Society's Outreach Policy involved the Society's participation in a number of exhibitions, including the *Back to Our Past* event at the RDS and several others around the country. The Society had stands at various community festivals and local history events. The Society's main event for *The Gathering Ireland* was organised in conjunction with the National Maritime Museum of Ireland, Dún Laoghaire Harbour Company, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and the Dún Laoghaire Community Association. *Bratacha 2013 – Festival of Flags & Emblems* was held from May 9<sup>th</sup> to May 11<sup>th</sup> 2013 and the event was designated as a 'key event' for *The Gathering* in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. The Society was elected to the prestigious international body, FIAV – the International Federation of Vexillological Associations at a General Meeting held in Rotterdam in August 2013 attended by two delegates from the Society. The Society also established two new branches, Vexillology Ireland and Heraldry Ireland, to deal with these specific aspects of its varied activities. The Society's website, our Facebook page and Twitter account continue to be valuable components in the promotion of the activities of the Society and Irish genealogy in general. The Society's redesigned website now provides indexes to the Society's Journals from 1992 to

2013 and to 'Ireland's Genealogical Gazette' from 2006 to 2013 and, although work is continuing on the provision of a Digital Archive, the Society's monthly newsletters from 1996. The Society's Archives and Research Centre was provided with new computer equipment and the collections and on-line resources available at the facility have been greatly expanded. The work is on-going to fully catalogue the Society's collections and indexes to a number of these collections have been made available on-line. Ancestor Network Ltd, in conjunction with the Society, provided very successful Weekend Genealogy Courses at An Daonchartlann. With sponsorship from the Dún Laoghaire Harbour Company the Society shipped a pallet load of academic books to the University of Sarajevo Library. The university's library collections were destroyed in the fire at the National & University Library in Sarajevo during the Bosnian civil war in 1992. The *Irish DNA Atlas Project*, operated in conjunction with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland has continued to produce very interesting and promising data for this unique academic genetic genealogy research project.

In addition to the above, the outgoing Board dealt with matters relating to the Society's membership of the Federation of Family History Societies; The Wheel; Integrating Ireland and such matters relating to the Society's Sectoral Representation on the Strategic Policy Committee on the Environment, Culture and Community of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. The Board also complied with its statutory obligations in respect of the Companies Acts 1963-2009, its position as a Registered Charity and as a Nominating Body for Seanad Éireann.

Michael Merrigan, MA, FGSI, General Secretary.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on **Tuesday March 11th 2014** at 20.00hrs in the Dún Laoghaire Institute of Further Education, Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. The members will be presented with the Annual Report of the Board of Directors, Audited Annual Accounts and elect the members of the Board for the coming year. Members will also be asked to endorse a procedural matter by ballot. Only fully paid-up members are entitled to vote or to stand for election and participate in the proceedings of the AGM. If you are unsure of your current membership status please contact our Director of Membership Services, Barry O'Connor, by e-mail on

membership@familyhistory.ie As always, the Society's monthly lecture is open to all.

### AGENDA

1. 20.00hrs—Minutes of the 2013 AGM
2. Matters Arising
3. Annual Report of the Board
4. Annual Financial Report
5. Resolution—Procedural Matter
6. Election of the Board 2014/15
7. Installation of in-coming Cathaoirleach
8. Guest Speaker – Q&A

The procedural matter for ballot (item 5) is in accordance with **Res: 13/06/1007** and is a proposal to give effect to certain provisions of that resolution. The text of the

proposal for the ballot is as follows:

*That, this Annual General Meeting endorses Res: 13/06/1007 of the Board of Directors of the Society and duly empowers the Board to act accordingly in respect of the Companies Registration Office.*

### CARE FOR YOUR RECORDS

In the course of our research we amass a huge amount of paper and computer records. We love these records, we've worked hard to collect them. Books, photographs, charts, notes, certificates, parish register and census transcripts. Have you made provision for the preservation of your records after you die? Don't let your hard work end up as landfill or your books to be sold off. **PLEASE** make provision in your Will to have them donated to the care of the Society's Archives for future generations of researchers. *Will Your Society Well!!*

## GENEALOGY COURSES 2014

The next session of the Weekend Genealogy Courses provided in conjunction with John Hamrock of **Ancestor Network Ltd** will commence on **Sat. March 22nd 2014**. It is intended to expand these very successful and popular courses to include the many advances in genealogy, heraldry and vexillology. The courses are specially designed to help beginners unlock the mysteries of their ancestry. Classes are small providing better tuition. Ancestor Network Ltd, provided the Genealogy Advisory Services for the **National Library of Ireland** during last summer. The course includes guided tours at the National Library, Dublin City Library and other repositories; the standard principles of genealogy; internet resources; place-

names and surnames; researching census, civil, valuation, church and other records. Practical advice will be shared enabling participants to achieve the best results tracing their ancestors. Courses are held at the GSI Archives and Research Centre where the major on-line genealogy resources will be covered in a 'hands-on' way for best results. Contact John Hamrock on 087 050 5296 or by e-mail on john.hamrock@ancestor.ie

### IRELAND'S GENEALOGICAL GAZETTE

All the past issues of this newsletter and its predecessor are available in pdf format to read or to download or to read *free of charge* on the Society's website [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie)

### IRISH LIVES REMEMBERED

The March 2014 issue (No. 22) of the excellently produced and very popular e-magazine '**Irish Lives Remembered**' is now available to read or to download to your PC, mobile device or tablet absolutely *free of charge* on [www.irishlivesremembered.ie](http://www.irishlivesremembered.ie) Why not checkout previous

issues of this wonderful Genealogy E-magazine on the website above?. The various articles on the resources for researching your ancestors in particular counties provide an exceptionally useful guide for those wishing to further their knowledge of the genealogical, archival and local history resources of these counties.

# James Scannell Reports...

## ROBERT TRESSELL

Bryan MacMahon will give an illustrated talk on Robert Tressell to the Kilmacud-Stillorgan Local History Society in Glenalbyn, Kilmacud Crokes GAA Club, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin on 13<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00 p.m. at which his new book *'Robert Tressell, Dubliner: author of 'The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists'* will be launched. Robert Tressell was the pseudonym of Robert Noonan, house-painter and sign-writer, who was born in Dublin in 1870 and died in Liverpool in 1911 and was buried in a pauper's grave. *'The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists'* was his only book and it written while he lived in Hastings, called "Mugsborough" in the novel. First published in abbreviated form in April 1914, the novel has challenged, entertained and inspired countless readers. Robert Noonan was a passionate socialist and his scathing denunciation of apathy and hypocrisy, of injustice and inequality, is still relevant today. Bryan MacMahon's new book is published to mark the centenary of the 1914 publication. The book tells the story of the gradual revelation of some of the details of Robert's life and the discovery of his manuscript, leading to the novel's publication in full for the first time in 1955. Much new information is included about Robert Noonan's Irish background and early years, and about the remarkable lives of his unconventional parents,

Mary Noonan and Samuel Croker. The book details new evidence from genealogical sources and property records which shows that Robert was resident in London by the age of eleven and most likely by the age of five. He was a Dubliner who was also a Londoner and who spent over ten years in South Africa. The book is published by Kilmacud Stillorgan Local History Society with profits going to Barnardos see: [www.kilmacudstillorganhistory.ie](http://www.kilmacudstillorganhistory.ie). Bryan MacMahon's previous publications include *Ascend or Die: Richard Crossbie, Pioneer of Balloon Flight in Ireland* (2010) and *Eccentric Archbishop: Richard Whately of Redesdale* (2005). He lives in Stillorgan.

## EDUCATION IN WICKLOW

A new book on the history of education in County Wicklow by Enniskerry local historian Michael Seery called *'Education in Wicklow: From Parish Schools to National Schools'* which documents the development of formal education in the county during the 1700s and the 1800s until the emergency of the National School in 1831, has been published by the Creathach Press. In 1825, a Parliamentary inquiry documented and recoded every school in Ireland and revealed that although the Hedge School was still the main education provider, there were a significant number of purpose-built schools in County Wicklow.

This book investigates the origins of these purpose-built schools. While some originated in the 1700s, most were built in the decade prior to 1825. These schools were built as the results of local efforts involving landlords, clergymen and parents, in addition to support from the Kildare Place Society, and others. Many of these schools became connected with the National School system when it was established in 1831. Based on original research from archives and drawing on society reports and the reports of the Wicklow Society, the development of early purpose-built schools in County Wicklow for the first time. Copies may be order through the website: [www.wicklowloweducationhistory.org](http://www.wicklowloweducationhistory.org)

## GUIDED TOUR

On Sunday March 30<sup>th</sup> 2014 a free guided 45-minute public tour will take place at the Museum of Decorative Arts and History, Collins Barracks, Benburb Street, Dublin 7. Irish history undoubtedly went through stark changes during the revolutionary period of 1913-1923, *but how did women's lives change, if at all?* Join historian Edward Oakes on a tour of Collins Barracks which explores the impact of this historic period on the lives of Irish women from the 1913 Lockout to the enactment of the Irish Free State Constitution in 1922 and beyond. Places allocated on a first come basis 15 minutes before the tour starts.

## OUR RESEARCH CENTRE

*An Daonchartlann*, the Society's Archives and Research Centre located at the historic Carlisle Pier in Dún Laoghaire, is open each Wednesday from 10.30hrs to 16.30hrs (except 4th Weds. open at 13.00hrs) and each Saturday from 14.00hrs to 17.30hrs. Members are on hand to provide **free family history research advice** to visitors. The use of the Society's extensive archival resources is reserved for fully paid-up GSI members, however, day research membership is available for €5.00 and payable on-line at the GSI website. Resources freely available to GSI members at the facility, as part of their membership package (see page 3), include a number of excellent pay-for-view websites including Ancestry.com, Findmypast, Forces War Records, Newspapers.com (American and Irish newspapers included), the British Newspaper Archives and the Irish Newspaper Archives. Travelling to the facility is best by public trans-

port as Dublin Bus (nos. 7, 7A, 8, 46A and 75) and the DART (suburban rail) are nearby. Pay-n-display parking is available at Dún Laoghaire Harbour area. The Pavilion Complex car park is across the street. See: [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie)

## EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTS

Members of the Society are entitled to the following discounts on on-line genealogical products. Whilst access to these resources is free to members at *An Daonchartlann*, it is also recommended that members avail of these discounts to have access from their own homes. **Findmypast Ireland** [www.findmypast.ie](http://www.findmypast.ie) offer a huge 50% discount and the **Irish Newspaper Archives** [www.irishnewspaperarchive.com](http://www.irishnewspaperarchive.com) offer an excellent 25% discount to GSI members. The British based **flatcapsandbonnets.com** provide a 20% discount on their range of DVDs. GSI Members get 40% off the first month's subscription for the **Forces War Records** database, which normally costs UK£8.95 for 28 days, for just UK£5.00. To avail of these exclusive please contact Barry O'Connor, Director of Membership Services, on [membership@familyhistory.ie](mailto:membership@familyhistory.ie)

## IRISH DNA ATLAS PROJECT

The Irish DNA Atlas is a collaborative academic research project undertaken by **Dr. Gianpiero Cavalleri** of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), the University of Leicester in the UK and the Society. The main objectives of the project are (1) to further our knowledge of the population history of Ireland and (2) to help us understand how genes influence health in Ireland. Participants continue to be sought from across the island of Ireland and, indeed, from overseas who can trace each of their eight great-grandparents to the same general area of Ireland. Participants are requested to present a Birth Brief (Pedigree Chart) and to provide a DNA sample (kit provided) for analysis. Participants are sought, male or female, with ancestry from any part of Ireland meeting the criteria regarding the eight great grandparents. Members are asked to assist the project by inviting friends and colleagues to participate. If you are interested in participating or have a query about participating, please don't hesitate to contact Séamus O'Reilly by e-mail on [Irish.dna@familyhistory.ie](mailto:Irish.dna@familyhistory.ie) Also, check-out the project newsletter on the GSI website.

## GSI MEMBERSHIP

The Annual Review of the Membership Package was undertaken by the Board of Directors at its meeting on Thursday November 7th 2013. It was agreed under **Res: 13/11/1060** to keep the cost of the Annual Subscription for 2014 for Irish and Overseas Members at €40.00. The Membership Package for 2014 includes the following: Member voting rights; optional second household adult member (18 years or over); Membership Certificate [**Res: 11/09/859**]; right to use GSI post-nominal; copy of the Annual Journal; monthly newsletter by e-mail; use of the Society's Archive; monthly meetings/lectures; special prices of up to 50% off selected Society publications; right to register your own assumed Arms or emblems with the Society free of charge; right to have your Club, School or Institutions assumed Arms or emblems registered with the Society free of charge to a maximum of ten registrations; occasional group projects; Members' internet

forum (under construction); genealogical, heraldic and vexillological advice; and the facility to publish your research in the GSI Journal. Special Membership concessions on products and services obtained, from time to time, by the Society. The Board also agreed to provide a number of concessionary rates at €20.00 for persons under 25 years of age and persons attending recognised genealogy courses etc. This Membership Package shall be applied as and from January 1st 2014 and be subject to annual review, however, existing Membership Packages shall be honored until their annual renewal date.

**NOTE:** In accordance with **Res: 10/09/785** all Membership Packages fall due for renewal on the anniversary of joining—please check your Membership Certificate. Apply on-line at [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie) or if you prefer, download the form and send it to **Mr. Billy Sauderson, MGSI**, Director of Finance, 'Suzkar', Killiney Avenue, Killiney, Co. Dublin, Ireland. *New Members always welcome!*

## MEMBERSHIP OF GSI BRANCHES

The Board of Directors has set the Annual Subscription rates for membership (associate) of either *Heraldry Ireland* or *Vexillology Ireland* is €20.00 per annum to include a biannual electronic newsletter and the free registration of Arms in respect of *Heraldry Ireland* and of flags or emblems in respect of *Vexillology Ireland*. Members of the following organisations shall be entitled to a 50% reduction in the Annual Subscription to each (i) Genealogical Society of Ireland; (ii) National Maritime Institute of Ireland and (iii) individual members of Clan/Sept Associations registered with Clans of Ireland and, in the case of *Vexillology Ireland*, individual members of the registered member organisations of FIAV—the International Federation of Vexillological Associations which represents fifty similar organisations in around thirty countries. For further details on these new GSI branches see the following websites: [www.heraldryireland.com](http://www.heraldryireland.com) or for *Vexillology Ireland* see: [www.flagsireland.wordpress.com](http://www.flagsireland.wordpress.com)



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*The Society is a Nominating Body for Seanad Éireann***Board of Directors 2013-2014**

**Pádraic Ingoldsby** (Cathaoirleach : Chairperson); **Gerry Hayden** (Leas-Chathaoirleach : Building Mgr.); **Michael Merrigan** (General Secretary : Company Secretary, Publications & pro tem Archive); **Billy Sanderson** (Finance); **Tom Conlon** (Internet Services); **Barry O'Connor** (Cemetery Projects & Membership); **Séamus Moriarty** (Lecture Programme), **John Hamrock** (Education & Social Inclusion); **Eddie Gahan** (Outreach Programme); **Maura Flood** (Digital Archive); and **Tony O'Hara** (Sales & Marketing).

**JOIN ON-LINE**[www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie)**DIARY DATES**

Tuesday March 11th (AGM) &amp; April 8th 2014

**Evening Open Meeting**

Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute  
Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire  
20.00hrs—22.00hrs

Wednesday March 26th &amp; April 23rd 2014

**Morning Open Meeting**

Hardy's Bar, Royal Marine Hotel, Dún Laoghaire  
10.30hrs—12.30hrs

**Contribution €3.00 p.p.**

(Coffee/Tea included at Morning Meetings)

**Patriot and Man of Peace**

Published in January by Dublin City Council and distributed by Four Courts Press '*Laurence O'Neill (1864-1943) - Lord Mayor of Dublin (1917-1924) - Patriot and Man of Peace*' (ISBN 978-1-907002-12-0 : 296pp : illustrations : h/bk Price: €45.00 : p/bk Price: €24.95) by **Thomas J. Morrissey, S.J.** is an important biography of a largely forgotten figure in modern Irish history. From a genealogical perspective the author has provided an outline of the family history for the O'Neill, or possibly earlier MacNeill, families of the Kinsealy/Malahide/Portmarnock area of north County Dublin where the family seems to have been since the late eighteenth century. His early life and the formation of his unique 'people-skills' rooted in empathy, compassion and combined a work ethic of elite sportsman created a zealous and assertive official. These were attributes that would serve him well over the very difficult and turbulent decade before the foundation of the State. Fr. Morrissey's research is thorough and yet, easily connects the reader to a labyrinthine world of political in-fighting, industrial disputes, revolutionary activity, defying conscription, hunger strikes, shifting allegiances and demonstrates O'Neill's political skill as a negotiator and trusted intermediary. O'Neill's Dublin was one of grinding poverty, unemployment and civil unrest where the Lord Mayor was uniquely viewed as a stabilising influence along with the support of his friend and strong father-figure, Archbishop William J. Walsh of Dublin. The loss of this close friend in 1921 had a profound impact on O'Neill. Indeed, Fr. Morrissey also published a fine biography on Archbishop Walsh (1841-1921) in 2000. O'Neill's tenacity in his pursuit of peace and reconciliation is clearly seen in the period around the Civil War as Dublin descended into chaos and destruction. Sadly in 1922 O'Neill, as Fr. Morrissey explains 'experienced a serious break-down in health, a massive "burn out" marked by physical and psychological exhaustion'. However, O'Neill rebounded, energized and set about the business of the municipality. He was greatly affected by the death of his beloved wife Anne (née Fottrell) in 1924, but his political career continued for nearly twenty years ending as a member of Seanad Éireann in 1943. O'Neill died on his own, on July 26th 1943, sitting on a chair in his summer house in the garden of Bridge House, Portmarnock. He was seventy-nine years of age. Thankfully as part of the '*Decade of Commemorations*' Dublin City Council and Fr. Morrissey have, with this wonderfully researched book, restored O'Neill to his rightful place as a champion of liberty, justice and national pride—a patriot and an outstanding Lord Mayor. **MM**

**FOUR COURTS PRESS***Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more*[www.fourcourtspress.ie](http://www.fourcourtspress.ie)**GSI JOURNAL 2014**

The 2014 edition of the *Journal of the Genealogical Society of Ireland* will be published next month, a month later than normal due to a short delay in receiving permission to publish a copyright image, now obtained. We apologise for any inconvenience caused, however, all paid-up members will receive their copies by mail in due course. The Society's annual journal is its 'flagship' publication and great care is taken to produce an excellent publication each year. Once again, the Board would like to record its gratitude and appreciation to **George H. O'Reilly** and **Brendan Hall** for the production of a quality publication, of which, the Society's members around the world can be rightly proud.

**CAR PARKING AT COLLEGE**

Members are advised that car-parking facilities at the Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute (formerly the Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education) on Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire, are very limited, especially during the college terms. Therefore, the Society advises all attending the lectures that the most convenient option is to use public transport. Dublin Bus nos. 7, 7A, 46A and 75 all serve the college or streets adjacent to the college—Lower George's Street, York Road, Clarence Street. The DART (suburban rail) services to Salthill & Monkstown is only a short walk from the college. On street car-parking is usually available in the area also. Members—why not 'car pool' for each month's meeting?

**STUDENT MEMBERSHIP**

The Society offers a 50% reduction on the standard membership rate for students and young researchers under 25 years of age. Persons taking adult education courses in genealogy can avail of a similar 50% reduction—that's right, for just €20.00. See GSI website.

**LECTURE PROGRAMME**

The following are the monthly lectures for the next four months. **Tues. Mar. 11th**—'*Dublin City Library & Archive as a resource for the family history researcher*' by Dr. Máire Kennedy. **Tues. Apr. 8**—'*Maritime Matters*' by Brian Scott. **Tues. May 13th** '*Technology and genealogy from a layperson's point of view*' by Maura Flood, MGSI. **Tues. June 10th**—'*Clans of Ireland—a case study of the O'Donnell Clan*' by Francis M. O'Donnell. **VENUE: Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education, Cumberland St., Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.** Directions on [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie) The programme of monthly lectures is varied to meet the needs of all levels of research experience. **Séamus Moriarty**, FGSI Director, GSI Lecture Programme, is always interested to receive feedback on the lecture programme or indeed, suggestions for future lectures. E-mail: Séamus on [Gazette@familyhistory.ie](mailto:Gazette@familyhistory.ie)

**A FIRST FOR IRELAND?**

Election posters appearing in Dún Laoghaire are certainly a sign that genealogical research in Ireland in the future will encounter many different surnames from right around the world. Michael Merrigan who is contesting the Local Elections as an Independent Community Candidate has produced election posters entirely in Polish and Filipino to encourage these nationals to register to vote. Could this be a first for an Irish election candidate?

**TRACING YOUR IRISH ANCESTORS***by John Grenham, MA, MAPGI, FIGRS, FGSI*

The Society strongly recommends to anyone embarking on their family history quest that one essential piece of kit must be, without doubt, a copy of the latest edition of '*Tracing Your Irish Ancestors*'. Please checkout the website [www.gillmacmillan.com](http://www.gillmacmillan.com) Price €22.99 [RRP].

**PRÉCIS OF FEB. LECTURE**

On Tuesday, February 11, 2014, **Aiden Feerick**, MGSI, MAPGI gave a lecture on *19<sup>th</sup> Century Property Tax and Griffith's Valuation*. With a new property tax recently implemented by the Government, Aiden Feerick examined the first ever comprehensive property tax carried out in Ireland by Richard John Griffith. The results were published in just over 300 volumes between 1847 and 1864. Because of the loss of the Census returns for the years from 1831 to 1851 in the 1922 fire at the Public Records Office, located at that time within the Four Courts complex, Griffith's Valuation has taken on an importance it would not otherwise have. As it stands, it is the most complete mid-19<sup>th</sup> century survey of the people, their land and their houses. In addition, thanks to the pioneering work of Eneclann and Origins.net, it is freely available to all on [www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie). Before Richard Griffith was made Valuation Commissioner in 1829, there had been partial surveys of land to establish the amount of Tithes to be paid by holders of agricultural land of more than one acre and to fix the rate of the County Cess or local tax. Streams of complaints about the methods of assessing taxpayers' liabilities poured into Dublin Castle. The complainants claimed that the surveyors were incompetent, used a variety of land measurements and were biased in their assessments in favour of the large landholders. The government of the day recognised the validity of these complaints and set up a countrywide, uniform system of land measurement and valuation to be carried out by central government. In the course of this survey, Griffith assessed one million buildings, surveyed twenty million acres of land and named up to 80% of the population. At that time, nearly 80% of the people of Ireland lived in the countryside. What information does a property survey provide for the family historian? It gives the names of all occupiers of land and houses as well as information about where they lived. It also has information on the economic activity prevalent within a district and accompanying maps which enable us to pinpoint the farms and houses where our ancestors lived.